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**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated July 12, 2004 has been carefully studied. Claim 5 has been canceled. Claims 1-2 and 6-8 have been amended. Claims 9-10 have been added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The disclosure has been objected to for some informalities. Appropriate correction has been made in response thereto.

Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to include the subject matters recognized by Examiner Kramer to be patentable and are believed to be in condition for allowance. It is then respectfully submitted that Claims 6-10 are in condition for allowance.

Examiner Gall has rejected the originally filed claims 1-4 of the present application. For the reasons which follow, applicant wish to extend appreciation to Examiner Gall for the quite detailed review of the amended claim 2 of the present invention leading to the finding of patentable subject matter.

In the lockset knob assembly disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,360,570 to Shen, the applicant of the present application, the spindle 40 includes a protrusion 431 for engaging with the engaging slot 341 of the core retainer (sleeve) 30. The protrusion 431 of the spindle 40 engages with the engaging slot 341 of the core retainer 30 to prevent rotational movement of the core retainer. However, longitudinal movement of the core retainer 30 away from the spindle 40 is not prevented. Namely, the core retainer 30 can be moved away from the spindle 40 along a longitudinal direction of the spindle 40 after the lock core 50 is removed even though the protrusion 431 of the spindle 40 engages with the engaging slot 341 of the core retainer 30. Damage to the internal parts of the lockset by a burglar could be done without difficulty after removal of the lock core 50.

In amended claim 1, the core retainer 57 includes at least one positioning opening 574 spaced from two longitudinally spaced ends of the core retainer 57, and said at least one engaging piece 564 of the outside spindle 56 is securely received in said at lease one positioning opening 574. Thus, both rotational movement and longitudinal movement of the core retainer relative to the outside spindle are prevented. This provides improved resistance to the longitudinal pulling of the core retainer with the intention of damaging structure of the lockset. Furthermore, claim 2 has been amended to further define the present invention in a

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manner to avoid the broad scope of claim 2 previously advanced by the Examiner. Shen '570 and other cited references fail to disclose these features.

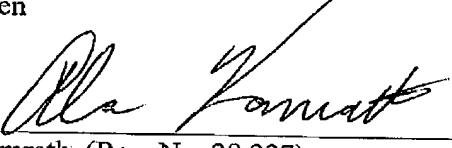
Since claims 1, 2 and 6-7 of the present application as amended include limitations directed to the features of the applicant's combination of an outside spindle and a core retainer for a lock which are neither shown, described, taught, nor alluded to in the cited references taken alone or in combination as indicated by the Examiner, the Examiner is requested to allow the pending claims 1-4 and 6-10 of the present application and to pass this application to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or telephone interview, he is urged to contact Applicant's attorney at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Mu-Lin Shen

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By:   
Alan D. Kamrath (Reg. No. 28,227)  
NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.  
International Centre  
900 Second Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402  
Tel: (612) 339-7461  
Fax: (612) 349-6556